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THE DAILY BEAT

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MONTANA TRIBAL NEWS:

CROW CHIEF'S DESCENDANTS PAY TRIBUTE AT PARK NAMED FOR HIM

By BECKY SHAY, Billings Gazette – (09/03/07)

PRYOR — A group of men who helped make Chief Plenty Coups State Park the neatly trimmed and culturally significant place it is today were honored in a peaceful ceremony there Saturday.

A Crow tribal historian, Elias Goes Ahead was one of the featured speakers. His father, Sylvester "Carty" and uncles, Clem and Vincent, were among the founders. The Goes Aheads are descendants of Plenty Coups.

Carty Goes Ahead died Aug. 21, and while he is sad, Elias Goes Ahead said he spoke to honor the men who helped establish the park and the Day of Honor.

He reminded the roughly 100 people gathered in the shade outside of Plenty Coups' house that, spiritually, the men were in the hearts of those attending.

"They are here today," he said. "Today is a great day."

In addition to the Goes Ahead men, the ceremony honored John Bulltail, Phillip Beaumont, Ben Pease Sr. and Dave Henry.

THROUGH THE HOOP: MOHICAN MAN SPREADS MESSAGE OF CULTURAL HEALING ACROSS INDIAN COUNTRY

By JODI RAVE, Missoulian (09/02/07)

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world."

- Mahatma Gandhi

MILES CITY - Many stories start by introducing a living person.

This story starts with what some describe as a living object - a sacred hoop.

The Hoop is a simple willow branch rounded into a circle. One hundred eagle feathers have been tied around the circumference. Those who come across the Hoop say it wields power. It is believed each feather carries people's prayers to the Spirit World, to the Creator.

The Hoop and its keeper traveled last month to every tribal community in Montana, four correctional facilities and the state Capitol. At each of the 13 stops, its keeper explained to community members how they could live a life of wellness through culture, including songs, language and ceremonies. And at each stop, people came to the Hoop to offer prayers.

"Being around this Hoop changed me, inner-most me," said Vince, a youth at the Pine Hills Youth Correctional Facility in Miles City.

PENALTIES WILL NOT AFFECT OPERATION OF GENERATING PLANT: HARDIN GENERATING PLANT VIOLATED STATE EMISSIONS PERMIT

By Daniel Person, Big Horn County News (08/30/07)

Hundreds of thousands of dollars in penalties issued to the Hardin Generating Plant last week will not affect the day-to-day operations of the plant, a Colorado Energy spokesman said recently.

"We feel really good about the plant and the operations there," Martin Wenzel said. "Our company feels good about the economics of the plant."

His comments came after almost \$500,000 in fines were levied on the plant, which employs 37 people in Big Horn

County, for various violations of the air permit negotiated with the state before the plant was built.

Local operators of the plant would not comment on the penalties, directing all questions to Colorado Energy. Bicent Energy recently bought Colorado Energy and the generating plant, and Wenzel said they would not be responsible for paying the fine, as all the violation occurred under the former owner, MDU Resources.

MDU spokesman Mark Hanson confirmed MDU was handling the penalties, and is still reviewing the violations. Company officials have until Sept. 17 to respond to the penalties, he said.

Officials at the Montana Department of Environmental Quality reported that the amount of sulfur dioxide emitted by the plant, measured on an hourly basis, exceeded its limit for hundreds of hours in its first three quarters of operation.

HIGH PRICES SEND FARMERS TO MARKET

By Daniel Person, Big Horn County News (08/30/07)

High wheat and barley prices are driving area farmers to the elevators.

The small grain crops cut earlier this month are now fetching the highest prices farmers have seen in 30 years, and some forecasters are predicting it to go even higher, according to Roger Bruckner, the Big Horn County executive director for the Department of Agriculture.

Most farmers in the county, however, aren't waiting around to see if the forecasts are right.

"Farmers are selling now," Bruckner said. "The vast majority is looking to go to market."

Bruckner's office offers loans to help farmers store their grain for up to nine months while they wait on higher prices, but this year, the service has gone largely unused.

In fact, limited elevator space is about the only thing keeping grain on farmers' hands, Bruckner said.

The high prices are thanks to a boom in corn demand driven by increased production of ethanol, a fuel most commonly cracked from corn. With corn going to the fuel, stock growers are looking elsewhere for feed, especially to barley, but also the rarely used wheat to replace the corn, Bruckner said.

TWO-THIRDS OF CLASS OF 2006 HAVE FOUND JOBS

By The Associated Press, Billings Gazette (09/04/07)

BOZEMAN - English literature major Nikole Didier laughs when asked if she's working at Burger King.

Actually, Didier said, since graduating from Montana State University last year, she has been working at a good job with Big Sky Laser Technologies in Bozeman, where she is a process assistant and technical writer.

"I love it here," said Didier, 26, who's originally from Wyoming. "I really feel fortunate to be in Bozeman still, it's such a beautiful area."

Didier is one of a growing number of MSU's grads who have succeeded in finding a job in Montana, according to MSU's Career Destinations report for the class of 2006.

Working grads: Sixty-seven percent of recent grads were working in Montana, up from 62 percent the year before, said Carina Beck, MSU's director of career services and student employment. That's based on survey responses from 1,427 graduates, or six out of 10 who earned degrees.

"The thing we're most excited about is seeing the strong retention of our graduates in state more than ever," Beck said.

Salaries have been increasing by about \$2,000 a year for bachelor's degrees, she said. The average salary reported by all graduates who earned bachelor's degrees was \$35,776.

The average salary in Montana was \$33,487, while the average out-of-state salary was \$41,172.

The income gap shrank for master's degrees, with those working in Montana earning \$38,862, compared to the out-of-state average of \$44,615.

For doctoral degrees, in-state salaries were higher - \$59,304 compared with \$50,147 for out-of-state. However, the number of people in that sample, 13, was too small to be considered reliable.